

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter with respect to Claims 2-9 and 11-12. Claims 7-9 and 12 were allowed, while Claims 2-6 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 1 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by FIG. 1 of the instant application. Without acceding to the rejections under § 102, in the interests of securing an early Notice of Allowance, Claims 1 and 10 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 2-4, 6 and 11 have been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim. No new matter has been added. Thus, Claims 2-9 and 11-12 are pending.

Applicants respectfully request that this application now be passed to issue, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited.

If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees and to credit any overpayments that may be required by this paper under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2135.

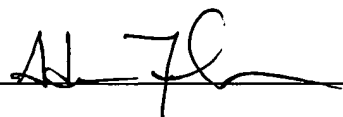
Respectfully submitted,

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1751-356 Response II

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